

February 26, 2019

Dear Members of the Connecticut General Assembly Education Committee,

I am writing in regards to SB 874. I oppose Sec. 17 and Sec. 18 of this bill which indicates that homeschooled children should be registered with their local school district yearly. The bill does not explain why there is a need for such registration and gives no explanation as to why registration of homeschoolers is necessary or beneficial to the homeschooled children or families. I do not think that legislators should vote to implement a new mandate for which there has been no explanation of its necessity by the proponents.

After watching my local school system fail at giving my son with special needs the support he needed to succeed we chose to withdraw him and homeschool him. Despite the special education teams efforts, they simply could not provide him the one-on-one time and attention or the custom designed curricula that he needed in order to learn at the rate of his peers. He rapidly fell behind and the gap between him and his peers grew wider with each passing month. Despite the gains he was making working with me at home after school and my continued request to implement the same strategies at school, his team was not open to my suggestions. This was a very frustrating experience. Since we began homeschooling in September he has made incredible gains and is now reading at grade level with continued progress in his other subjects. Homeschooling has allowed me the freedom to find what works for him (a highly visual, intuitive learner).

I feel extremely uneasy about having to register him with our local school district and potentially be told what curriculum I should use (See Sec. 18). Parents ultimately hold the responsibility of educating their children, whether it be the choice of enrolling them in public or private school or educating them at home. As a new homeschooling parent, I now see just how much of my child's educational choices I blindly accepted when he was in public school. We homeschool parents make sacrifices of time, money and resources in order to educate our children in the best way we see fit. I can assure you that we take this responsibility very seriously. This includes fighting for the freedom to homeschool without registering our children. Please vote NO on SB 874. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
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